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# NASA Policy Directive

**NPD 8900.1G**

Effective Date: May 31, 2002

Expiration Date: May 25, 2012

**COMPLIANCE IS MANDATORY**[Printable Format \(PDF\)](#)

Request Notification of Change

 (NASA Only)

## **Subject: MEDICAL OPERATIONS RESPONSIBILITIES IN SUPPORT OF HUMAN SPACE FLIGHT PROGRAMS (Revalidated with admin. changes 5/25/07)**

**Responsible Office: Integrated Enterprise Management Program**

### **1. POLICY**

The Space Operations Mission Directorate (SOMD) will provide and maintain the necessary medical systems to support medical operations for human space flight. The Office of the Chief Health and Medical Officer (OCHMO) will provide policy and oversight functions in support of medical operations for human space flight. OCHMO will accomplish this task through interaction with the Exploration Systems Mission Directorate (ESMD) for health-related research products and deliverables and through interaction with the OSF for medical operations.

### **2. APPLICABILITY**

This NASA Policy Directive (NPD) applies to NASA Headquarters and Centers, including Component Facilities.

### **3. AUTHORITY**

42 U.S.C.2473(c)(1), Section 203(c)(1), of the National Aeronautics and Space Act of 1958, as amended.

### **4. REFERENCE**

- a. NPD 1440.6F, NASA Records Management.
- b. NPD 1800.2A, NASA Occupational Health Program.
- c. NPD 7100.8C, Protection of Human Research Subjects.
- d. NPD 8710.1A, Emergency Preparedness Program.
- e. NPD 1000.0, NASA Governance and Strategic Management.
- f. NPR 100.3, The NASA Organization.
- g. NPR 8715.2, NASA Emergency Preparedness Plan Procedures and Guidelines.
- h. NPR 8715.3, NASA Safety Manual.
- i. NPR 1441.1C, Records Retention Schedules.

### **5. RESPONSIBILITY**

a. The SOMD has overall responsibility for planning, coordinating, and implementing all human space flight activities. The ESMD, and other research Directorates, as appropriate, are responsible for providing support to the SOMD in the areas of research products to protect crew health and enhance performance. The Johnson Space Center (JSC) is responsible for management of all NASA space medical activities in support of human space flight. Other NASA Centers, as well as external agencies participating in human space flight activities, are responsible for reporting to JSC for direct mission-related medical activities.

b. The Associate Administrator (AA) for SOMD is responsible for designating a senior manager for space crew health

and safety. This individual will be responsible for the following:

1. Recommending requirements for space medicine and countermeasures and propose milestones for deliverables.
2. Advocating with the AA for SOMD for on-orbit resources necessary to meet these milestones.
3. Recommending policies applicable to crew health and safety.
4. Reviewing space medicine operations and results on a periodic basis.
5. Advising the AA for SOMD on crew health and safety issues.
6. Collaborating with the ESMD regarding health care research-related issues, as appropriate.
7. Overseeing the implementation of health-related research products and deliverables once approved.

c. The OCHMO is responsible for the following:

1. Formulating policies and Agency level standards for, and providing oversight of, activities related to crew health, medical operations, and the Medical Policy Board.
2. Reviewing progress in Space Mission Health and Medical practices.
3. Chairing the Medical Policy Board.
4. Reviewing and approving the medical requirements and research products readiness for operational implementation.
5. Reviewing and concurring on all implementing procedures and guidelines for this NPD and subsequent changes.
6. Serving as a member of the Administrator's Contingency Action Team for Space Flight Operations.
7. Transmitting medical policies and agreements related to human space flight to the AA for SOMD.
8. Serving as the Agency Health and Medical Technical Authority.

d. Each NASA Center Director involved in the human space flight programs, is responsible for the following:

1. Developing a medical disaster plan to fit unique technical operations, and preparing an emergency preparedness plan for the Center's Human Space Flight Program Operations.
2. Ensuring, if appropriate to the Center's role and responsibilities in human space flight, that the prime objectives of medical activities in support of ground-based and in-flight tests, checkouts, and simulations are met. Specifically, these objectives are as follows:
  - a) To verify that human support equipment fulfills design, quality, and safety requirements needed for the useful and efficient functioning of individuals in both ground-based and in-flight environments.
  - b) To ensure that crewmember health is optimized to maximize crewmember performance during flight.
  - c) To establish the requirements for, and collaborate with, the ESMD to monitor the progress of health and medical research to support crew health.
  - d) To ensure that environmental, medical, and safety reviews of equipment and biomedical research protocols are in accordance with the JSC Institutional Review Board (IRB) standards, including policies and procedures outlined in NPD 7100.8C, Protection of Human Research Subjects.
  - e) To conduct hardware tests, verifications, and procedural simulations, as necessary, of any equipment prior to testing on humans.

## 6. DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY

None.

## 7. MEASUREMENTS

METRIC:

An annual report will be issued by medical operations at JSC to the CHMO, indicating the number of medical events affecting space flight crewmembers that result in adverse mission impact. The lower the number of medical events affecting space flight crewmembers that result in adverse mission impact, the greater the success of the program.

## 8. CANCELLATION

NPD 8900.1F, dated May 31, 2002.

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**Revalidated May 25, 2007, original signed by: /s/ Sean O'Keefe  
Administrator**

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**ATTACHMENT A: (TEXT)**

None.

**(URL for Graphic)**

Attached\_URL

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